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TO SING
IN ENGLISH

TO SING IN ENGLISH

A GUIDE TO IMPROVED DICTION



Dorothy Uris

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TO LOTTE LEONARD

THE MANY TO THANK

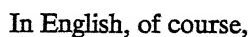
It all began with Lotte Leonard, fine teacher, superb artist, and endearing woman to whom this work is dedicated. Dismayed by her pupils' delivery in English, she sought my advice as speech consultant, baiting the trap by inviting me *just* to listen. This I did and discovered the not uncommon phenomenon of well-trained American voices singing a puzzling mixture of mannerisms and localisms. "What's going on?" I asked. Madame Leonard replied firmly, "You tell me!"

And so I've been at it ever since—researching, proselytizing, writing, and teaching speech and diction for singers at the Mannes College of Music and the Manhattan School of Music, coaching for opera companies including the Metropolitan and the Santa Fe, and working privately with many singers.

Though more often like an obstacle race, teaching sung English has brought many joys. It has expanded the scope of my life's work by adding music to what had been until then merely words. To correct a lisp gladdens a therapist's heart while to improve diction in song enchants her ear as well.

Now to do the impossible and single out a few of the many to whom I owe so much. It was Donald Engle's enthusiasm as director of the Rockefeller Fund for Music that made research possible for the book and therefore the book itself. In the manuscript's preparation first Hilda Fuhrman and later Claire Kire rendered immeasurable assistance as did Arnold Freed who readied the copious song materials for publication.

Last, but always to be remembered, are six gifted former pupils, singers, and an accompanist who were all music research assistants on the book at different times: Gwendolin Sims, Joan Lindstrom, Maryanne King, Linda Poston Smith, Barbara Railo, and Mara Waldman. When one of them would leave to pursue graduate study or a career, another would step in until this final song excerpt, paraphrased from Charles Ives, was inserted at the end of the last page.



DOROTHY URIS

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